

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 6, 9-13, 17-18, 21-25 and 28-35 remain pending in this application.
No claims have been canceled or added.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 25 and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0152339) in view of McGovern et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0097260). Claims 6 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of McGovern et al, as applied to claims 1, 2, 25 and 33-35, and further in view of Brewer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,163). Claims 9-12 and 29-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of McGovern et al, as applied to claims 1, 2, 25 and 33-35, and further in view of Achiwa et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0009438). Claims 13, 14, 17 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoogterp (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0210218) in view of Yamamoto and further in view of McGovern et al. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoogterp in view of Yamamoto and McGovern et al, as applied to claims 13, 14, 17 and 24, and further in view of Brewer et al. Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoogterp in view of

Yamamoto and McGovern et al, as applied to claims 13, 14, 17 and 24, and further in view of Achiwa et al. These rejections are traversed as follows.

Without admitting to the propriety of the rejections under this section, a declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 accompanies this response in order to remove McGovern et al as a reference. Thus, it is requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

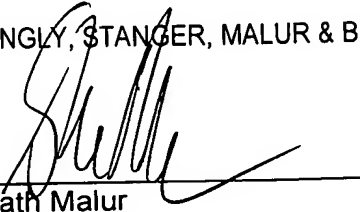
Claims 9, 11, 21, 22, 29 and 30 have been amended to further define the function of the storage system in response to a file system protect request. It is submitted that these claims distinguish over the cited art even if McGovern et al could still be used as prior art. As such, it is submitted that all the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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